

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please Amend Claims 1-5, 7-11 and 14 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing ~~system having a host computer~~ apparatus capable of communicatively connecting to an image input-output device, the image processing ~~system~~ apparatus comprising:

a color space conversion unit for converting a color space, which is dependent on the image input-output device, of an image which is output from a device driver of the image input-output device into a common color space used in an OS of the a host computer, by performing color matching processing using a profile corresponding to the image input-output device, where the color matching processing is performed using a color matching module included in the OS;

a resolution conversion unit for converting a resolution of the image which is output from the device driver of the image input-output device into a common resolution;

a determination unit for determining the extent of a match between a particular image and an image converted into said common color space and said common resolution; and

an image processing control unit for controlling processing of said image output from the device driver based on the extent of the match as determined by the determination unit,

wherein the color space conversion unit, the resolution conversion unit, the determination unit and the image processing control unit are running on the OS, and the color space conversion unit, the resolution conversion unit, the determination unit and the image processing control unit are constructed independently of the device driver of the image input-output device.

2. (Currently Amended) The image processing ~~system~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image processing control unit generates a warning if the extent of the match meets or exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

3. (Currently Amended) The image processing ~~system~~apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a dialog box display unit for displaying a dialog box used for inputting instructions as to whether or not to continue with processing if the extent of the match meets or exceeds the predetermined threshold value;

a record archiving unit for archiving the operating record if an instruction is given to continue with processing in response to said dialog box; and

a discontinuance unit for discarding the image if an instruction is given to discontinue with processing in response to said dialog box.

4. (Currently Amended) The image processing ~~system~~apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the particular image is an Currently Amended image whose reproduction is prohibited.

5. (Currently Amended) The image processing ~~system~~apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: a driver for the image input-output device that runs on the host computer's software.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The image processing ~~system~~apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said image input-output device either a scanner that scans an original image or a printer that outputs an image onto a recording medium.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A control~~An image processing method for an image processing system having a host computer capable of communicatively connecting to an image input-output device, the image processing control method comprising:

a color space conversion step for converting a color space, which is dependent on an image input-output device, of an image which is output from a device driver of the image input-output device into a common color space used in an OS of the a host computer, by performing color matching processing using a profile corresponding to the image input-output device, where the color matching processing is performed using a color matching module included in the OS;

a resolution conversion step for converting a resolution of the image which is output from the device driver of the image input-output device into a common resolution;

a determination step for determining the extent of a match between a particular image and an image converted into said common color space and said common resolution; and

an image processing control step for controlling processing of said image output from the device driver based on the extent of the match as determined in the determination step,

wherein the color space conversion step, the resolution conversion step, the determination step and the image processing control step are executed by the OS, and the color space conversion step, the resolution conversion step, the determination step and the image processing control step are executed independently of the device driver of the image input-output device.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The image processing control~~The image processing control method according to claim 8, wherein a warning is generated at the image processing control step if the extent of the match meets or exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The image processing control~~The image processing control method according to claim 9, further comprising:

a dialog box display unit for displaying a dialog box used for inputting instructions as to whether or not to continue with processing if the extent of the match meets or exceeds the predetermined threshold value;

a record archiving unit for archiving the operating record if an instruction is given to continue with processing in response to said dialog box; and

a discontinuance unit for discarding the image if an instruction is given to discontinue with processing in response to said dialog box.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-executable software control program stored on a computer-readable medium for causing a computer ~~capable of communicatively connecting to an image input-output device to function as an image processing system, the control program to perform a method comprising program code for:~~

a color space conversion step for converting a color space, which is dependent on an image input-output device, of an image which is output from a device driver of the image input-output device into a common color space used in an OS of thea host computer, by performing color matching processing using a profile corresponding to the image input-output device, where the color matching processing is performed using a color matching module included in the OS;

a resolution conversion step for converting a resolution of the image which is output from the device driver of the image input-output device into a common resolution;

a determination step for determining the extent of a match between a particular image and an image converted into said common color space and said common resolution; and

an image processing control step for controlling processing of said image output from the device driver based on the extent of the match as determined in the determination step,

wherein the color space conversion step, the resolution conversion step, the determination step and the image processing control step are running on the OS, and the color space conversion

step, the resolution conversion step, the determination step and the image processing control step are executed independently of the device driver of the image input-output device.

12. (Previously Presented) The control program stored on a computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein, a warning is generated at the determination step if the extent of the match meets or exceeds a predetermined value.

13. (Previously Presented) The control program stored on a computer-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein the determination step further comprises:

a dialog box display step of displaying a dialog box used for inputting instructions as to whether or not to continue with processing if the extent of the match meets or exceeds the predetermined threshold value;

a record archiving step of archiving an operating record if an instruction is given to continue with processing in response to said dialog box; and

a discontinuance step of discarding the image if an instruction is given to discontinue with processing in response to said dialog box.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having a computer-executable software control program stored thereon, the control program causing a computer, ~~capable of communicatively connecting to an image input-output device to function as an image processing system, the control program to perform a method comprising program code for:~~

a color space conversion step for converting a color space, which is dependent on an image input-output device, of an image which is output from a device driver of the image input-output device into a common color space used in an OS of the host computer, by performing color matching processing using a profile corresponding to the image input-output device, where the color matching processing is performed using a color matching module included in the OS;

a resolution conversion step for converting a resolution of the image which is output from the device driver of the image input-output device into a common resolution;

a determination step for determining the extent of a match between a particular image and an image converted into said common color space and said common resolution; and

an image processing control step for controlling processing of said image output from the device driver based on the extent of the match as determined in the determination step,

wherein the color space conversion step, the resolution conversion step, the determination step and the image processing control step are running on the OS, and the color space conversion step, the resolution conversion step, the determination step and the image processing control step are executed independently of the device driver of the image input-output device.